

# Leo E. Walker

## U.S. Army

### 275TH Engineer Combat Battalion in ETO



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My home was at Carthage, Illinois. I enlisted as a private on October 1, 1942 at Peoria, Illinois. After basic training, I was sent to Engineer Officers Candidate School. After graduation on April, 15, 1943, I was assigned to the 275th Engineer Battalion, a part of the 75th Infantry Division. As Company Commander of 'C' Company, we sailed to Europe in November 1944 and went into combat on December 24, 1944. We were in the Ardennes Forest on Christmas Day. It was later called the Battle of the Bulge. We also took part in battles in the Rhineland, in Central Europe and at the Colmar Pocket.

I was awarded the Bronze Star with the following citation: *"Under the provisions of NR 600-45, Sept. 28, 1943, as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to Captain Leo E. Walker, Company C, 275th Engineer Combat Battalion, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy from 24 December, 1944 to*

*6 February, 1945, in Belgium and France. Captain Walker performed outstanding services while serving as Company Commander in the construction and maintenance of vitally needed engineer supplies and equipment. On one occasion, despite heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire, he personally directed the construction of a Bailey Bridge across the Colmar Canal. At another time when his company was engaged in laying a protective mine field in front of our lines, enemy machine gun fire suddenly killed three of his men and seriously wounded another. Disregarding the enemy fire, Captain Walker succeeded in bringing the stricken man to a place of safety. The outstanding leadership and concern for the welfare of his men displayed by this brave officer is of the highest order."*

I also served for a time with the 101st Airborne Division and with the 82nd Airborne Division. I returned to New York on January 6, 1946. After a 45 day leave, I returned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina with the 82nd Division. I was assigned as Company Commander of one of their Engineer Companies. In November 1947, I went to Japan for a few months and, after returning to the states, was discharged on the Army at Seattle, Washington on May 1, 1948.

While on leave in June 1944, I married my wife Ethel and we had 2 children: Jack and Donna. After the war, I went to work for Shell Oil Co. in Houston, Texas and stayed with them for more than 33 years.

Leo E. Walker  
Houston, Texas